

Corporation will send sarees in the market with its trade mark and also open its own showrooms in order to ensure that buyers get genuine Kota saree?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: We will take the views of the hon. Member into consideration. If the State Government sends a proposal in this regard, we will think over it.

SHRI DAU DAVAL JOSHI: A proposal from the State Government has already been sent.

[English]

Supply of containers to Ports

* 534. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of containers available at various major ports at present, port-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from major ports for supply of more containers;

(c) if so, the details thereof, port-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) containers are generally owned or taken on lease by shipping companies. The total number of containers at different major ports as on 25.3. 1992 is as under:-

S.No.	Name of Port	Total number of Containers (in Teus)
1.	Bombay	11458
2.	Calcutta including Haldia Dock Complex	1808
3.	Vizag	275
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port	5910
5.	Cochin	1960
6.	Kandla	1189
7.	New Mangalore	131
8.	Tuticorin	526
9.	Paradip	nil
10.	Mormugao	nil
11.	Madras	2003

(b) No request has been received by the Government from major ports for supply of more containers.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: The present trend in all the ports which handle various types of cargo is to use the containers facilitating easy movement of more cargo. The exporters are also referring containers because the cargo exported will be accepted better elsewhere. But, however, containers are not put to use in our country except in the Bombay Port. That is why Bombay port is much preferred and it is also a congested port today. In ports like Vizag the sea food exporters are facing troubles for want of containers. Containers are not available as and when they want to export precious cargo which is earning foreign exchange to us.

I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of such occasions and if any measures are contemplated to ease the transport of sea food by the exporters in Visakhapatnam.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: First of all, I would like to make a small correction to the hon. Members's question. It is not that Bombay alone is handling the containers. At all the ports in the country we have the container service.

AN HON. MEMBER: Except in two ports.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Yes, we are just building up there. There is no shortage at this particular time. There was a shortage in the months of May and June when the imports were very less. But, we have seen to it and there is no shortage now.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY. The present trend is containerisation in all ports of the world. It is a must also. If we want to use the port facilities to an optimum level containerisation is to be done progressively in all major ports of the country.

I would like the hon. Minister to tell us his

views on this, and see that the major ports handle much more cargo, to avert losses which are presently incurred in some of the major ports for want of these easy facilities to handle cargo and also enable more cargo to be exported to other countries.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, we are doing everything possible to encourage container service handling. It is not true that we are going in losses. Rather I am happy to say that in the last eight months, most of ports are making profits and the ports handled more cargo than in the previous year.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, Cochin is a major port. a study about the performance and the working of the Cochin port shows that there is much scope for container trade in Cochin because most of the items exported are cash crops around Kerala and other hinterland. May I know from the hon. Minister about the steps taken by the Government for promoting container trade in Cochin port so that lot of foreign exchange can be earned, which will ultimately enable the Cochin port to earn profit?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, we have got a new scheme in Cochin, container Terminal, which is practically ready with ADB loan at a cost of Rs. 53 crores. Secondly, we are also exploring new schemes, where we are allowing the private sector to come in and build up this facility. I am happy to tell the hon. Member that about this, we have already sent a reference for Vellarpadam, Kochi and two container berths in JNPT.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, sir, we have just now discussed the Bombay port. Does the hon. Minister know that consequent upon the introduction of container service in Nvavasheva port by the Government, about 8 thousand employees of Bombay port have been rendered jobless because this convinces service is being provided through contractors who have appointed five thousand workers on a pay less than half of the pay being given to dockyard and Bombay port trust employees. they are

being exculpated due to the new economic policy of the Government direct all the ports to provide jobs on that very scale or a higher one to all those labourers who have been rendered surplus by the dockyard or Bombay Port Trust, after containerisation?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I do not think that this is possible. But this is completely a wrong allegation that we are exploiting the labour. Rather, I have been very particular that he labourer should be done away with. We have got a Golden handshake scheme. Over 3, 000 workers in Bombay port have accepted it. And I am just waiting for the Finance Ministry to clear it. We are going to allow private handling of it but with the consent of the port workers. I am not going to for a moment also to see that the port workers in any way are put to inconvenience.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even now 5000 employees have been working under contractors at Ntavasheva. So it is not the proper reply of my significant question. You have simply made a mention of your objectives whereas my question is quite specific. On the one hand, 5,000 workers have been working on a lower salary under contractors, on the other hand, the employees of the Bombay Port Trust who have opted for the so called Golden Handshake Scheme have not been getting their salaries for the last three months i.e. September, October and November. Does the Government propose to do something for these workers?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, Bombay Port Trust and Nava Sheva Port Trust are two different organisations. I want to tell you that if the people are satisfied and the work is being done all right in JNPT, why should I interfere in that?... (Interruption) I do not want to interfere. And people are getting job satisfaction. But as far as 5,000 port workers are concerned, about whom you are referring to - we are already working out a scheme

and something can be done about it now.

Rubber Board

*535. **SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the research activities of the Rubber Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHED): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATMENT

Government propose to intensify research activities of the Rubber Board. Proposals include strengthening of existing facilities and establishment of new stations, strengthening of the evaluation of germplasm materials, strengthening of research on biotechnology and form culture, strengthening of supporting services and economic research, etc. It also includes commercialisation of the generation of tissue culture plants, on farm experiments of 15 potentially high yielding clones, strengthening of selection, conservation, cataloguing and evaluation of Brazilian germs plasm, etc.

SHRI RAMESH CHANNITHALA: Sir, more than 700 scientists are working in Malaysian. Rubber Research Board, which is an autonomous body and they are coming with new varieties of prawns, which will give more yield per hectare. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many scientists are working in the Indian Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam. Also what are the new invasions of this Institute?

SHRI SLAMAN KHURSHED: Sir, a special clone which is number as IRII No. 105, has been introduced in the late seven-